



# TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER™

## School of Pharmacy

### What to look for in a PGY1 program – advice from the TTUHSC SOP residents

#### ✓ Location

- Are you willing to travel?
- Affiliated hospitals/clinics/schools (Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Allied Health)
- Size of hospitals; number of patient beds, clinics, trauma/burn center, regional referral center
- Scope of practice for pharmacists at the site
- Patient population served by the hospital system
- Patient population - do I want to have a focus on a specific population (i.e., Veterans, geriatrics, pediatrics, etc.)?

#### ✓ Program - General Information

- **Consider creating a spreadsheet of the following:**
  - Name of program
  - 1 or 2 year program / availability for PGY-2
  - Number of residency spots available
  - Program contact (email and phone)
  - Setting/model of practice (academic medical center vs. private community hospital vs. VA, etc.)
  - Emphasis in academia - what college of pharmacy is the program affiliated with?
  - Strength of the program (critical care? ambulatory? outpatient? inpatient? research? management?)
  - Any special certifications provided during residency (teaching certificate, immunizations, BLS/ACLS, etc.)
  - Number of co-residents
  - Research requirements
  - Staffing requirements
  - Staffing component - would I be trained appropriately to staff in pharmacy?
  - Pharmacy computer system used

#### **Rotations**

- Rotation requirements (which rotations were required, what elective rotations were available)
- Balance of rotations - would I be exposed to both inpatient/outpatient rotations?
- Longitudinal rotations (one afternoon of clinic on a weekly basis)
- What activities will be required outside of traditional rotations (presentations, research, staffing, and on-call duties)?



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### ***PGY2 Program***

- PGY2 programs - does the program offer PGY2 programs that I might be interested? Is there an opportunity for early commitment?
- Are there any core or elective rotations available to meet any PGY2 interests?
- Availability of a PGY2 in a specialty area that aligned with my practice interests

### ✓ **Program - Characteristics**

#### ***Stability***

- Program reputation
- How long has the program been in existence?
  - Considerations of opportunities to shape a new program and associated rotation experiences vs. difficulties/barriers with new/young programs)?
  - Advantages of new program may be that you can be a part of the development process, flexibility, etc.
  - Advantages of older program may be that it is already well established and organized
- New changes/implementations in pharmacy- where are they headed? Are they advancing the practice of pharmacy?

#### ***Credentials/Experience***

- Credentials/experience of program preceptors (might be a little hard to find, but can be a good weeding out tool)
- Preceptors play a huge role in the program. Are they trained, what kind of training, do they like to teach? All things to consider

#### ***Interprofessional Environment***

- People/attitude/vibe from the preceptors/director/residents, etc.
- How well do the current residents appear to get along with each other and what is their perception of the director/preceptors?
- Interprofessional environment quality- are pharmacists valued members of the team?

### ✓ **Career Path**

- I didn't want to limit myself to just looking at children hospitals but yet look at programs that were heavily focused in pediatrics and one that had a PGY2 in pediatrics so I could early commit if I wanted to.
- Elective opportunities in my area of interest
- Look at the electives, this is HUGE. If the program doesn't fit for you and you won't be doing what you love then I don't think that's the right program



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- Look at the number of residents at the program, see what would fit best for your personal growth
- Previous residents - what are the previous residents doing now (available on website)?
- Opportunities for leadership
- Opportunities for teaching and availability of a teaching certificate program
- Association with school/college of pharmacy and/or teaching opportunities (could be a positive or negative depending on what the student wants as a career path eventually...)
- Will learning experiences be (within reason) tailored to my interests/future career goals?

### ✓ Interview Process

- Application deadline
- Number of recommendation letters
- PHORCAS recommendation form required to be filled out too?
- Interview process - is the program willing to invest time/effort in candidates (i.e., length of the interview day, activities planned for the interview day, etc.)
- Were residents/preceptors/directors inviting when I approached their booth at midyear?
- And I think that it all comes down to FIT..... When you talk to them at midyear or during an interview, you WILL be able to tell if you can see yourself at the program. As much as a program wants you, you need to want them! It is one year of your life, you need to enjoy it but yet get the best experience possible!